

# PRY

Such deep designs of empire does he lay  
O'er them, whose cause he seems to take in hand;  
And prudently would make them lords at sea,  
To whom with care he can give laws by land. *Dryden.*  
**PRUDERY.** *n. f.* [from *prude*.] Overmuch nicety in conduct.  
**PRUDISH.** *adj.* [from *prude*.] Affectedly grave.  
I know you all expect, from seeing me,  
Some formal lecture, spoke with *prudish* face. *Garrick.*  
**TO PRUNE.** *v. a.* [of unknown derivation.]  
1. To lop; to divest trees of their superfluities.  
So lop'd and *pruned* trees do flourish fair. *Davies.*  
Let us ever extol  
His bounty, following our delightful task,  
To *prune* those growing plants, and tend these flow'rs. *Milt.*  
What we by day  
Lop overgrown, or *prune*, or prop, or bind,  
One night with wanton growth derides,  
Tending to wild. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. ix.*  
Horace will our superfluous branches *prune*,  
Give us new rules, and let our harp in tune. *Walker.*  
You have no less right to correct me, than the same hand  
that raised a tree, has to *prune* it. *Pope.*  
2. To clear from excrescences.  
His royal bird  
*Prunes* the immortal wing, and cloy his beak. *Shaksp.*  
Many birds *prune* their feathers; and crows seem to call  
upon rain, which is but the comfort they receive in the re-  
lent of the air. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*  
The muse, whose early voice you taught to sing,  
Pierced her heights, and *pruned* her tender wing. *Pope.*  
**TO PRUNE.** *v. n.* To dress; to prink. A ludicrous word.  
Every scribbling man  
Grows a sop as fast as e'er he can,  
*Prunes* up, and asks his oracle the glass,  
If pink or purple best become his face. *Dryden.*  
**PRUNE.** *n. f.* [*prune*, *pruneau*, Fr. *prunum*, Lat.] A dried  
plum.  
In drying of pears and *prunes* in the oven, and removing  
of them, there is a like operation. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*  
**PRUNEL.** *n. f.* An herb. *Answorth.*  
**PRUNELLO.** *n. f.*  
1. A kind of stuff of which the clergymen's gowns are made.  
Worth makes the man, and want of it, the fellow;  
The rest is all but leather or *prunello*. *Pope.*  
2. [*Prunelle*, Fr.] A kind of plum. *Ansforth.*  
**PRUNER.** *n. f.* [from *prune*.] One that crops trees.  
Left thy redundant juice  
Should fading leaves, instead of fruits, produce,  
The *pruner's* hand with letting blood must quench  
Thy heat, and thy exuberant parts retrench. *Denham.*  
**PRUNIFEROUS.** *adj.* [*prunum* and *fero*, Lat.] Plum bearing.  
**PRUNING-HOOK.** *n. f.* A hook or knife used in lopping  
*PRUNING-KNIFE.* *f.* trees.  
Let thy hand supply the *pruning-knife*,  
And crop luxuriant stragglers. *Gryden.*  
No plough shall hurt the glebe, no *pruning-hook* the vine.  
*Dryden's Virgil.*  
The cyder land obsequious still to thrones,  
Her *pruning-hooks* extended into swords. *Philips.*  
**PRURIENCE.** *n. f.* [from *prurio*, Lat.] An itching or a great  
**PRURIENCY.** *f.* desire or appetite to any thing. *Swift.*  
**PRURIENT.** *adj.* [*pruriens*, Lat.] Itching. *Answorth.*  
**PRURIOUS.** *adj.* [*prurio*, Lat.] Tending to an itch.  
**TO PRY.** *v. u.* [of unknown derivation.] To peep narrowly;  
to inspect officiously, curiously, or impertinently.  
I can counterfeit the deep tragedian,  
Speak, and look back, and *pry* on ev'ry side,  
Intending deep suspicion. *Shaksp. Richard III.*  
I *pry'd* me through the crevice of a wall,  
When for his hand he had his two sons heads. *Shaksp.*  
Watch thou, and wake when others be asleep,  
To *pry* into the secrets of the state. *Shaksp.*  
We of th' offending side  
Must keep aloof from strict arbitrement;  
And stop all sight holes, every loop, from whence  
The eye of reason may *pry* in upon us. *Shaksp.*  
He that *pries* in at her windows, shall also hearken at her  
doors. *Ecluf. xiv. 23.*  
And *pry*  
In every bush and brake, where hap may find  
The serpent sleeping. *Milton.*  
We have naturally a curiosity to be *prying* and searching  
into forbidden secrets. *L'Estrange.*  
Search well  
Each grove and thicket, *pry* in ev'ry shape,  
Left hid in some th' arch hypocrite cleave. *Dryden.*  
I wak'd, and looking round the bow'r  
Search'd ev'ry tree, and *pry'd* on ev'ry flow'r,  
If any where by chance I might esp'y  
The rural poet of the melody. *Dryden.*  
Nor need we with a *prying* eye survey  
The distant skies, to find the milky way. *Cretch.*  
Actions are of so mixt a nature, that as men *pry* into them,  
so observe some parts more than others, they take different

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hints, and put contrary interpretations on them. *Addison.*  
All these I frankly own without denying;  
But where has this *Praxiteles* been *prying*. *Addison.*  
**PSALM.** *n. f.* [*psalm*, *psaume*, Fr. *ψαλμός*.] A holy song.  
The choice and flower of all things profitable in other  
books, the *psalms* do both more briefly contain and more  
movingly express, by reason of that poetical form wherewith  
they are written. *Hooker, b. v. f. 37.*  
Stenhold was made groom of the chamber, for tuning  
certain of David's *psalms* into verse. *Peacham.*  
Those just spirits that wear victorious palms,  
Hymns devote and holy *psalms*  
Singing continually. *Milton.*  
In another *psalm*, he speaks of the wisdom and power of  
God in the creation. *Barnet's Theory of the Earth.*  
**PSALMIST.** *n. f.* [*psalmiste*, Fr. from *psalm*.] Writer of holy  
songs.  
How much more rational is this system of the *psalmist*,  
than the Pagans scheme in Virgil, where one deity is repre-  
sented as railing a storm, and another as laying it? *Addison.*  
**PSALMODY.** *n. f.* [*psalmodia*, Fr. *ψαλμωδία*.] The act or  
practice of singing holy songs.  
**PSALMOGRAPHY.** *n. f.* [*ψαλμός* and *γραφω*.] The act of  
writing psalms.  
**PSALTER.** *n. f.* [*psalter*, Fr. *ψαλτήριον*.] The volume of  
psalms; a psalmbook.  
**PSALTERY.** *n. f.* A kind of harp beaten with sticks.  
The trumpets, sacbuts, *psalteries* and fifes  
Make the fun dance. *Shaksp. Coriolanus.*  
Praise with trumpets, pierce the skies,  
Praise with harps and *psalteries*. *Sandys's Paraph.*  
The sweet finger of Israel with his *psalter*, loudly re sounded  
the benefits of the almighty creator. *Peacham.*  
Nought shall the *psalter* and the harp avail,  
When the quick spirits their warm march forbear,  
And numbing coldness has unbrac'd the ear. *Prior.*  
**PSEUDO.** *n. f.* [from *ψεύδω*.] A prefix, which, being put  
before words, signifies false or counterfeit: as, *pseudopropit*,  
a counterfeit apostle.  
**PSEUDOGRAPHY.** *n. f.* False writing.  
I will not pursue the many *pseudographies* in use, but shew  
of how great concern the emphasis were, if rightly used. *Hall.*  
**PSEUDODOGY.** *n. f.* [*ψευδολογία*.] Falsehood of speech.  
It is not according to the found rules of *pseudology*, to report  
of a pious prince, that he neglects his devotion, but you may  
report of a merciful prince, that he has pardoned a criminal  
who did not deserve it. *Arbutnot.*  
**PSHAU.** *interj.* An expression of contempt.  
A peevish fellow has some reason for being out of humour,  
or has a natural incapacity for delight, and therefore disturbs  
all with pithes and *pshaus*. *Spectator, N° 438.*  
**PTISAN.** *n. f.* [*ptisane*, Fr. *πτισάνη*.] A medical drink made  
of barley decocted with raisins and liquorice.  
Thrice happy were those golden days of old,  
When dear as Burgundy the *ptisans* sold;  
When patients chose to die with better will,  
Than breathe and pay the apothecary's bill. *Garth.*  
In fevers the aliments prescribed by Hippocrates, were  
*ptisans* and cream of barley. *Arbutnot.*  
**PTYALISM.** *n. f.* [*ptyalismos*, Fr. *πτύσσειν*.] Salivation; ef-  
fusion of spittle.  
**PTYSMAGOGUE.** *n. f.* [*πτύσσειν* and *αγωγή*.] A medicine which  
discharges spittle. *Dict.*  
**PUBERTY.** *n. f.* [*puberté*, Fr. *pubertas*, Lat.] The time of  
life in which the two sexes begin first to be acquainted.  
The cause of changing the voice at the years of *puberty*  
seemeth to be, for that when much of the moisture of the  
body, which did before irrigate the parts, is drawn down to  
the spermatical vessels, it leaveth the body more hot than it  
was, whence cometh the dilatation of the pipes. *Bacon.*  
All the carnivorous animals would have multiplied exceed-  
ingly, before these children that escaped could come to the  
age of *puberty*. *Bentley's Sermons.*  
**PUBESCENCE.** *n. f.* [from *pubesco*, Lat.] The state of arriving  
at puberty.  
Solon divided it into ten septenaries; in the first is deder-  
tion or falling of teeth, in the second *pubescence*. *Brown.*  
**PUBESCENT.** *adj.* [from *pubescens*, Lat.] Arriving at puberty.  
That the women are menstruant, and the men *pubescent* at  
the year of twice seven, is accounted a punctual truth. *Brown.*  
**PUBLICAN.** *n. f.* [from *publicus*, Lat.]  
1. A toll gatherer.  
As Jesus sat at meat, many *publicans* and sinners came and  
sat down with him. *Math. ix. 10.*  
2. A man that keeps a house of general entertainment. In low  
language.  
**PUBLICATION.** *n. f.* [*publico*, Lat.]  
1. The act of publishing, the act of notifying to the world;  
divulgation; proclamation.  
For the instruction of all men to eternal life, it is necessary,  
that the sacred and saving truth of God be openly published  
unto them, which open *publication* of heavenly mysteries is  
by an excellency termed preaching. *Hooker.*  
2. Edition;

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2. Edition; the act of giving a book to the publick.  
An imperfect copy having been offered to a bookseller,  
you consented to the *publication* of one more correct. *Pope.*  
The *publication* of these papers was not owing to our folly,  
but that of others. *Swift.*  
**PUBLIC.** *adj.* [*publicus*, *publique*, Fr. *publicus*, Lat.]  
1. Belonging to a state or nation; not private.  
By following the law of private reason, where the law of  
*publick* should take place, they breed disturbance. *Hooker.*  
Of royal maids how wretched is the fate,  
Born only to be victims of the state;  
Our hopes, our wishes, all our passions try'd  
For *publick* use, the slaves of others pride. *Granvil.*  
Have we not able counsellors, hourly watching over the  
*publick* weal. *Swift.*  
2. Open; notorious; generally known.  
Joseph being a just man, and not willing to make her a  
*publick* example, was minded to put her away privily. *Math.*  
3. General; done by many.  
A dismal universal his, the sound  
Of *publick* fear. *Milton.*  
4. Regarding not private interest, but the good of the commu-  
nity.  
They were *publick* hearted men, as they paid all taxes, so  
they gave up all their time to their country's service, with-  
out any reward. *Clarendon.*  
All nations that grew great out of little or nothing, did so  
rude by the *publick* mindedness of particular persons. *South.*  
A good magistrate must be endued with a *publick* spirit, that  
is with such an excellent temper, as sets him loose from all  
selfish views, and makes him endeavour towards promoting the  
common good. *Atterbury.*  
5. Open for general entertainment.  
The income of the commonwealth is raised on such as  
have money to spend at taverns and *publick* houses. *Addison.*  
**PUBLIC.** *n. f.* [from *publicus*, Lat. *le publicus*, Fr.]  
1. The general body of mankind, or of a state or nation; the  
people.  
The *publick* is more disposed to censure than to praise. *Add.*  
2. Open view; general notice.  
Philosophy, though it likes not a gaudy dress, yet, when  
it appears in *publick*, must have so much complacency, as to  
be clothed in the ordinary fashion. *Locke.*  
In private grief, but with a careless scorn;  
In *publick* seem to triumph, not to mourn. *Granville.*  
In *publick* 'tis they hide,  
Where none distinguish. *Pope.*  
**PUBLICLY.** *adv.* [from *publick*.]  
1. In the name of the community.  
This has been so sensibly known by trading nations, that  
great rewards are *publickly* offered for its supply. *Addison.*  
2. Openly; without concealment.  
Sometimes also it may be private, communicating to the  
judges some things not fit to be *publickly* delivered. *Bacon.*  
**PUBLICNESS.** *n. f.* [from *publick*.]  
1. State of belonging to the community.  
The multitude of partners does detract nothing from each  
private share, nor does the *publickness* of it lessen propriety  
in it. *Boyle.*  
2. Openness; state of being generally known or publick.  
**PUBLIC-SPIRITED.** *adj.* [*publick* and *spirit*.] Having regard  
to the general advantage above private good.  
'Tis enough to break the neck of all honest purposes, to  
kill all generous and *publick-spirited* motions in the concep-  
tion. *L'Estrange.*  
These were the *publick-spirited* men of their age, that is,  
patrons of their own interest. *Dryden.*  
Another *publick-spirited* project, which the common enemy  
could not foresee, might set king Charles on the throne. *Atterbury.*  
It was generous and *publick-spirited* in you, to be of the  
kingdom's side in this dispute, by shewing, without reserve,  
your disapprobation of Wood's design. *Swift.*  
**TO PUBLISH.** *v. a.* [*publio*, Fr. *publico*, Lat.]  
1. To discover to mankind; to make generally and openly  
known; to proclaim; to divulge.  
How will this grieve you,  
When you shall come to clearer knowledge, that  
You thus have *published* me. *Shaksp. Winter's Tale.*  
His commission from God and his doctrine tend to the im-  
pressing the necessity of that reformation, which he came to  
*publish*. *Hammond's Fundamentals.*  
Suppose he should relent,  
And *publish* grace to all.  
Th' unwearied sun, from day to day,  
Does his Creator's pow'r display,  
And *publishes* to every land  
The work of an almighty hand. *Addison's Spectator.*  
2. To put forth a book into the world.  
If I had not unwarily too far engaged myself for the present  
*publishing* it, I should have kept it by me. *Digby.*  
**PUBLISHER.** *n. f.* [from *publish*.]  
1. One who makes publick or generally known.

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Love of you  
Hath made me *publisher* of this pretence. *Shaksp.*  
The holy lives, the exemplary sufferings of the *publishers*  
of this religion, and the surpassing excellence of that doctrine  
which they published. *Atterbury.*  
2. One who puts out a book into the world.  
A collection of poems appeared, in which the *publisher* has  
given me some things that did not belong to me. *Prior.*  
**PUCELAGE.** *n. f.* [French.] A state of virginity. *Dict.*  
**PUCK.** *n. f.* [perhaps the same with *pug*.] Some sprite among  
the fairies, common in romances.  
O gentle *puck*, take this transformed scalp  
From off the head of this Athenian swain. *Shaksp.*  
Turn your cloaks,  
Quoth he, for *puck* is busy in these oaks,  
And this is fairy ground. *Corbet.*  
**PUCKBALL** or *puckst.* *n. f.* [from *puck* the fairy, a fairy's ball.]  
A kind of mushroom full of dust. *Dict.*  
**TO PUCKER.** *v. a.* [from *puck* the fairy; as *elocks*, from *elock*,  
or from *puck*, a pocket or hollow.] To gather into corruga-  
tions; to contract into folds or plications.  
I saw an hideous spectre; his eyes were sunk into his head,  
his face pale and withered, and his skin *puckered* up in  
wrinkles. *Spectator, N° 192.*  
A ligature above the part wounded is pernicious, as it  
*puckers* up the intestines, and disorders its situation. *Sharp.*  
**PUDDER.** *n. f.* [This is commonly written *potter*. See  
*POTTER*. This is most probably derived by Mr. Lye from  
*fudur*, Ilandick, a rapid motion.] A tumult; a turbulent  
and irregular bustle.  
Let the great gods,  
That keep this dreadful *pudder* o'er our heads,  
Find out their enemies. *Shaksp. King Lear.*  
What a *pudder* is made about essences, and how much is  
all knowledge pestered by the careless use of words? *Locke.*  
**TO PUDDER.** *v. n.* [from the noun.] To make a tumult;  
to make a bustle.  
Mathematicians, abstracting their thoughts from names,  
and setting before their minds the ideas themselves, have  
avoided a great part of that perplexity, *puddering* and confu-  
sion, which has so much hindered knowledge. *Locke.*  
**TO PUDDER.** *v. a.* To perplex; to disturb; to confound.  
He that will improve every matter of fact into a maxim,  
will abound in contrary observations, that can be of no other  
use but to perplex and *pudder* him. *Locke.*  
**PUDING.** *n. f.* [*pudding*, Welsh, an intestine; *boudin*, French;  
*pudding*, Swedish.]  
2. A kind of food very variously compounded, but generally  
made of meal, milk, and eggs.  
Sallads, and eggs, and lighter fare  
Tune the Italian spark's guitar;  
And if I take Dan Congreve right,  
*Pudding* and beef make Britons fight. *Prior.*  
3. The gut of an animal.  
He'll yield the crow a *pudding* one of these days; the king  
has kill'd his heart. *Shaksp. Henry V.*  
As sure as his guts are made of *puddings*. *Shaksp.*  
3. A bowel stuffed with certain mixtures of meal and other in-  
gredients.  
Mind neither good nor bad, nor right nor wrong,  
But eat your *pudding*, slave, and hold your tongue. *Prior.*  
**PUDINGPIE.** *n. f.* [*pudding* and *pie*.] A pudding with meat  
baked in it.  
Some cry the covenant, instead  
Of *puddingpies* and gingerbread. *Hudibras.*  
**PUDINGTIME.** *n. f.* [*pudding* and *time*.]  
1. The time of dinner; the time at which pudding, anciently  
the first dish, is set upon the table.  
2. Nick of time; critical minute.  
Mars that still protects the stout,  
In *puddingtime* came to his aid. *Hudibras.*  
**PUDLE.** *n. f.* [from *puteus*, Lat. *Skinner*; from *poil*, dirt,  
old Bavarian, *junius*; hence *pool*.] A small muddy lake;  
a dirty plash.  
The Hebrews drink of the well-head, the Greeks of the  
stream, and the Latins of the *puddle*. *Hall.*  
Thou did'st drink  
The stale of horses, and the gilded *puddle*  
Which beasts would cough at. *Shaksp. Ant. and Cleop.*  
A physician cured madmen thus: they were tied to a stake,  
and then set in a *puddle*, 'till brought to their wits. *L'Estr.*  
Treading where the treacherous *puddle* lay,  
His heels flew up; and on the grassy floor  
He fell, besmear'd with filth. *Dryden's Virgil.*  
Happy was the man, who was sent on an errand to the  
most remote street, which he performed with the greatest ala-  
cidity, ran through every *puddle*, and took care to return co-  
vered with dirt. *Addison's Freeholder.*  
**TO PUDDLE.** *v. a.* [from the noun.] To muddy; to pollute  
with dirt; to mix dirt and water.  
As if I saw my fun shine in a *puddled* water, I cried out of  
nothing but *Mojra*. *Sidney.*  
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Some